

# Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS)

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7, as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

Note for compilers:

1. The RIS should be completed in accordance with the attached *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines for completing the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands*. Compilers are strongly advised to read this guidance before filling in the RIS.
2. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Compilers are strongly urged to provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of maps.

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**1. Name and address of the compiler of this form:****Joint Nature Conservation Committee**

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

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**2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:**

Designated: 19 November 1996 / updated 12 May 2005

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**3. Country:**

UK (Northern Ireland)

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**4. Name of the Ramsar site:**

Pettigoe Plateau

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**5. Map of site included:**Refer to Annex III of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines*, for detailed guidance on provision of suitable maps.**a) hard copy** (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): yes  -or- no **b) digital (electronic) format** (optional): Yes

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**6. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude):**

54 32 00 N

07 59 04 W

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**7. General location:**

Include in which part of the country and which large administrative region(s), and the location of the nearest large town.

Nearest town/city: Enniskillen

The Pettigoe Plateau is located in County Fermanagh, in the west of Northern Ireland, north of Lower Lough Erne. The site abuts the international border with the Republic of Ireland.

**Administrative region:** Fermanagh

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**8. Elevation** (average and/or max. & min.) (metres): **9. Area** (hectares): 1264.32

Min. 50

Max. 180

Mean 0

## 10. Overview:

Provide a short paragraph giving a summary description of the principal ecological characteristics and importance of the wetland.

The Pettigoe Plateau is situated in County Fermanagh in the west of Northern Ireland to the north of Lower Lough Erne. It abuts the International border with the Irish Republic. It is one of the largest expanses of blanket bog in Northern Ireland, formed on a relatively low elevation rolling landscape interspersed with hills with mineral soil and depressions with several small lakes. The extensive blanket bog which covers most of the site exhibits the full range of characteristic vegetation and structural features associated with this type of habitat.

## 11. Ramsar Criteria:

Circle or underline each Criterion applied to the designation of the Ramsar site. See Annex II of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines* for the Criteria and guidelines for their application (adopted by Resolution VII.11).

**1, 2**

**Secretariat comment: The RIS provides information requiring the application of Criterion 4. This needs to be included in the next update.**

## 12. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 11. above:

Provide justification for each Criterion in turn, clearly identifying to which Criterion the justification applies (see Annex II for guidance on acceptable forms of justification).

Ramsar criterion 1

A particularly good representative example of blanket bog. The extensive blanket bog, which covers most of the site, exhibits the full range of characteristic vegetation and structural features associated with this type of habitat. These features include a large number of well-developed pool complexes, frequent acid flushes, basin mires and ladder fens.

Ramsar criterion 2

The site supports an important assemblage of vulnerable and endangered Irish Red Data Book bird species. The site also regularly supports nationally important numbers of breeding golden plovers *Pluvialis apricaria*.

## 13. Biogeography (required when Criteria 1 and/or 3 and /or certain applications of Criterion 2 are applied to the designation):

Name the relevant biogeographic region that includes the Ramsar site, and identify the biogeographic regionalisation system that has been applied.

### a) biogeographic region:

Atlantic

### b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):

Council Directive 92/43/EEC

## 14. Physical features of the site:

Describe, as appropriate, the geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth, water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; downstream area; general climate, etc.

Soil & geology	acidic, peat, nutrient-poor
Geomorphology and landscape	upland, hilly
Nutrient status	mesotrophic, oligotrophic
pH	acidic
Salinity	fresh

Soil	mainly organic
Water permanence	usually permanent
Summary of main climatic features	Annual averages (Carmony, 1971–2000) ( <a href="http://www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/averages/19712000/sites/carmoney.html">www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/averages/19712000/sites/carmoney.html</a> ) Max. daily temperature: 12.1° C Min. daily temperature: 5.9° C Days of air frost: 27.6 Rainfall: 993.0 mm Hrs. of sunshine: 1179.0

**General description of the Physical Features:**

The Pettigoe Plateau is one of the largest expanses of blanket bog in Northern Ireland, formed on a relatively low-elevation rolling landscape interspersed with hills with mineral soil and depressions with several small lakes. The extensive blanket bog that covers most of the site exhibits the full range of characteristic vegetation and structural features associated with this type of habitat.

**15. Physical features of the catchment area:**

Describe the surface area, general geology and geomorphological features, general soil types, general land use, and climate (including climate type).

The Pettigoe Plateau is one of the largest expanses of blanket bog in Northern Ireland, formed on a relatively low-elevation rolling landscape interspersed with hills with mineral soil and depressions with several small lakes. The extensive blanket bog that covers most of the site exhibits the full range of characteristic vegetation and structural features associated with this type of habitat.

**16. Hydrological values:**

Describe the functions and values of the wetland in groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization, etc.

Recharge and discharge of groundwater

**17. Wetland types**

Inland wetland

Code	Name	% Area
U	Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)	87
Other	Other	13

**18. General ecological features:**

Provide further description, as appropriate, of the main habitats, vegetation types, plant and animal communities present in the Ramsar site.

The Ramsar Site is one of the largest areas of intact blanket bog remaining in Northern Ireland. The site comprises an extensive area of lowland blanket bog with a large number of well-developed pool complexes, frequent acid flushes and basin mires. The bog vegetation is characterised by luxuriant *Sphagnum* mosses, dwarf-shrubs and other associated species, with the strong oceanic influence indicated by the constancy and abundance of purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* and the frequency of bog myrtle *Myrica gale*, the moss *Campylopus atrovirens* and the liverwort *Pleurozia purpurea*.

**19. Noteworthy flora:**

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g. which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

None reported

**20. Noteworthy fauna:**

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g. which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc., including count data. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

**Species currently occurring at levels of national importance:**

**Species regularly supported during the breeding season:**

European golden plover , *Pluvialis apricaria* 12 pairs, representing an average of 3% of the all-Ireland population (Two count mean 1987 & 1995)  
*apricaria*, Britain/Ireland/Denmark/Germany

**Species Information**

None reported

**21. Social and cultural values:**

e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological sites, social relations with the wetland, etc. Distinguish between historical/archaeological/religious significance and current socio-economic values.

Aesthetic  
 Livestock grazing

**22. Land tenure/ownership:**

Ownership category	On-site	Off-site
National/Crown Estate	+	
Private	+	

**23. Current land (including water) use:**

Activity	On-site	Off-site
Grazing (unspecified)	+	

**24. Factors adversely affecting the site’s ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:**

*Explanation of reporting category:*

1. *Those factors that are still operating, but it is unclear if they are under control, as there is a lag in showing the management or regulatory regime to be successful.*
2. *Those factors that are not currently being managed, or where the regulatory regime appears to have been ineffective so far.*

NA = Not Applicable because no factors have been reported.

Adverse Factor Category	Reporting Category	Description of the problem (Newly reported Factors only)	On-Site	Off-Site	Major Impact?
Overgrazing by domestic livestock	1		+	+	

For category 2 factors only.  
 What measures have been taken / are planned / regulatory processes invoked, to mitigate the effect of these factors?

Is the site subject to adverse ecological change? NO
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**25. Conservation measures taken:**

List national category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site; management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it is being implemented.

Conservation measure	On-site	Off-site
Site/ Area of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI/ASSI)	+	
Special Protection Area (SPA)	+	
Management agreement	+	+
Site management statement/plan implemented	+	
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	+	

**26. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:**

e.g. management plan in preparation; official proposal as a legally protected area, etc.

None reported

**27. Current scientific research and facilities:**

e.g. details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

None reported

**28. Current conservation education:**

e.g. visitor centre, observation hides and nature trails, information booklets, facilities for school visits, etc.

None reported

**29. Current recreation and tourism:**

State if the wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type(s) and their frequency/intensity.

None reported

**30. Jurisdiction:**

Include territorial, e.g. state/region, and functional/sectoral, e.g. Dept. of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment, etc.

Department of the Environment (Northern Ireland), Environment and Heritage Service,  
Commonwealth House, Castle Street, Belfast, Northern Ireland, BT1 1GU

**31. Management authority:**

Provide the name and address of the local office(s) of the agency(ies) or organisation(s) directly responsible for managing the wetland. Wherever possible provide also the title and/or name of the person or persons in this office with responsibility for the wetland.

Department of the Environment (Northern Ireland), Environment and Heritage Service,  
Commonwealth House, Castle Street, Belfast, Northern Ireland, BT1 1GU

**32. Bibliographical references:**

Scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 13 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

**Site-relevant references**

Berry, PM, Harrison, PA, Dawson TP & Walmsley, CA (2005) *MONARCH 2: modelling natural resource responses to climate change. A local approach*. UK Climate Impacts Programme, Oxford.

[www.ukcip.org.uk/resources/publications/pub\\_dets.asp?ID=81](http://www.ukcip.org.uk/resources/publications/pub_dets.asp?ID=81)

Corbett, P. McM & Seymour, GR (1997) The conservation of peatland in Northern Ireland. In: *Conserving peatlands*, ed by L Parkyn, RE Stoneman & HAP Ingram. CAB International, Wallingford, for Scottish Wildlife Trust

Frazer, JS, Cruickshank, MM & Tomlinson, RW (1988) *Northern Ireland Peatland Survey. Part 5 – Fermanagh and South Tyrone*. Unpublished report to Department of the Environment (Northern Ireland), Countryside and Wildlife Branch, Belfast

McLeod, CR, Yeo, M, Brown, AE, Burn, AJ, Hopkins, JJ & Way, SF (eds.) (2004) *The Habitats Directive: selection of Special Areas of Conservation in the UK*. 2nd edn. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough.

[www.jncc.gov.uk/SACselection](http://www.jncc.gov.uk/SACselection)

- Partridge, K (1992) *Northern Ireland Breeding Wader Survey – Final report*. Unpublished report to Department of the Environment (Northern Ireland), Countryside and Wildlife Branch, Belfast
- Stroud, DA, Chambers, D, Cook, S, Buxton, N, Fraser, B, Clement, P, Lewis, P, McLean, I, Baker, H & Whitehead, S (eds.) (2001) *The UK SPA network: its scope and content*. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough (3 vols.) [www.jncc.gov.uk/UKSPA/default.htm](http://www.jncc.gov.uk/UKSPA/default.htm)
- Way, LS, Grice, P, MacKay, A, Galbraith, CA, Stroud, DA & Pienkowski, MW (1993) *Ireland's Internationally Important Bird Sites: a review of sites for the EC Special Protection Area network*. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough, for Department of the Environment (Northern Ireland), Belfast, and Irish Wildlife Service, Dublin
- Wolfe-Murphy, SA, Lawrie, EW, Smith, SJ & Gibson, CE (1993) *Northern Ireland Lakes Survey*. Unpublished report to Northern Ireland Department of Environment, Countryside and Wildlife, Belfast

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